

2025 Glenn Miller Festival

June 12-15, 2025

Glenn Miller Orchestra

Adam Swanson

Gooch & The Guys Big Band

Bill Baker's Big Band

GMBS Big Band

Air Force Military Band

Steve Shninger & the ShinSings

NWMS Jazz Ensemble

GMBS Big Band

Dennis Spragg (GMC Presentation)

BONTEN "Taiko" Japanese Celebration

GMBS Music Scholarship Competition

(GMBS 50)

World Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra

The Glenn Miller Orchestra will perform on Friday, June 13th at 7:00 pm. GMO will also perform at the festival dance on Saturday, June 14th at 7:30 pm.



The Glenn Miller Orchestra will perform on Friday evening June 13th in the Auditorium and Saturday evening June 14th in the Gym for a dance concert, with a swing dance competition.



The Glenn Miller Orchestra will also have a special concert, featuring the band in 1937. Greg Parnell, President of Glenn Miller Productions will host the program. The concert is scheduled for Saturday, June 14th at 3:00 pm.

Gooch & the Guys Big Band



Gooch and the Guys will perform Saturday, June 14th at 1:00 pm

Gooch has become one of the Glenn Miller festival's favorite band. A 17-piece musical extravaganza playing big band jazz and vocal numbers covering classic tunes from some of the best writers and arrangers of the 20th Century.



Adam Swanson

Adam Swanson performs on Friday, June 13th, 3:00 pm

Adam is one of the world's foremost pianists and historians of vintage American popular music, including ragtime and early jazz. He is the only 4-time world champion ragtime piano player.

Bill Baker's Big Band



Bill Baker and his Band (all the way from the Netherlands) will perform on Friday, June 13th at 10:30 am, in a concert called "Bill Baker's Big Band At Home".

Bill and the Band will also perform on Saturday, June 14th at 4:30 pm in a concert called "Bill Baker's Band in the Mood."

Dennis Spragg
Glenn Miller Collections

Dennis Spragg coordinates the Glenn Miller Collections at the American Music Research Center, University of Colorado Boulder, serves on the AMRC advisory board and as historian of the Glenn Miller Birthplace Society in Clarinda, Iowa, and is host to GMBS yearly Glenn Miller festival in Clarinda. Meanwhile, with legendary Denver radio personality Rick Crandall, he produces the acclaimed weekly big band broadcast the *Star-Spangled Radio Hour*. Likewise, Dennis directs the Glenn Miller Collections website and social media. Moreover, he writes widely respected opinion articles that connect the history of America and exceptionalism with current events. Also, influential American and international media have published his articles and essays, as have the Smithsonian and Library of Congress. He appears regularly on radio, television, podcasts and at in-person presentations. Dennis will present Glenn Miller, 1945 Presentation & the Glenn Miller Orchestra Panel scheduled for Saturday at 9:30 am.



Northwest Jazz Ensemble



The Northwest Jazz Ensemble performs on Saturday, June 14th from 7:00 am to 9:00 am at the Festival Pancake Breakfast at the Clarinda Fire Station.

Air Force Military Band

The Air Force Military Band will perform after the opening Festival picnic and the Bonten & Mirai Taiko Japanese celebration concert. They will perform on the Square on Thursday, June 12th at 8:00 pm (weather permitting) otherwise we will move to the High School gym.

GMBS has NEW Miller merchandise and swag. Merchandise will be sold at the High School Commons Area and at the Glenn Miller Birthplace Museum. The Museum & Birthplace Home will be open during the festival from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm for tours and to purchase merchandise.

BONTEN & Mirai Taiko Japanese Celebration Drum Concert

BONTEN & Mirai Taiko will be performing "Taiko" Japanese celebration drum concert on the Square at 6:00 and the Air Force Military Band will perform at 8:00 pm. (Both are free concerts)

BONTEN" and "Mirai Taiko members" will be performing "Taiko" Japanese celebration drum (Sakura Aoki will join them)

"Taiko" Japanese Drum Team : BONTEN

In 2001, they began performing live, and have been creating colorful music with their own unique sound and worldview, using mainly Japanese drums, but also Shinobue, shakuhachi, shamisen, Koto, and piano.

BONTEN has also performed many times overseas and has a growing fan base in the US, Europe, and Southeast Asia. They performed at the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C., and coach the Cornell University Taiko Team YAMATAI for 20 years now.

In addition, Sakura Aoki who graduated from CHS in 93 and also a daughter of Mr. Aoki, the head of GMBS Japan branch will be joining to perform with them.



Steve Shinger & the ShinSings



Steve and the ShinSings will perform on Friday, June 13th at 1:00 pm

The ShinSings Orchestra is a 13-piece little big band, featuring the music of Frank Sinatra, big band swing and classic pop.

GMBS Music Scholarship Competition

The GMBS Music Scholarship competition will be held on Thursday, June 12th. The instrumental portion at 8:15 am and vocals at 1:00 pm in the auditorium.

One of the highlights of the yearly festival is the GMBS Music Scholarship Competition. The competition is open to high school seniors and college freshmen who intend on making music part of their careers. GMBS receives applications from all over the country and narrows them down to the top 10 vocalists and the top 10 instrumentalists. These 20 students compete at the yearly festival on Thursday (opening day). The top 3 students in each category receive their awards and perform on Friday during the Stage Show.

If you would like to become involved by volunteering to help the GMBS Music Scholarship Program or help support this important program financially, you can do so by calling the Museum at 712-542-2461 or sending Shari an email at: shari@glenmiller.org.

GMBS Big Band

GMBS Big Band, directed by Tom Daugherty performs on Friday, June 13th at 8:00 am during the Stage Show



The GMBS Big Band is comprised of musicians from all over the country that come together yearly to play in the Glenn Miller festival. Tom does an outstanding job of including the music scholarship competition winners to play with the band. They are thrilled to be on-stage with the band in front of the festival guests.

2025 Glenn Miller Festival Meal Options

As you can see from the schedule, this year's festival is jam-packed with concerts. Keeping this in mind, we have added the below meal options.

Thursday & Friday, June 12th & 13th, there will be coffee & donuts in the HS Commons at 7:00 am. There is no charge to festival guests

Thursday, June 12th—Kick-off picnic scheduled for 5:00 pm on the Town Square for an outdoor festival picnic. Fareway will be grilling hamburgers & hotdogs, with chips & drink \$5.00 (Weather permitting—we will move to the HS if we need to)

Friday, June 13th—Noon lunch to be catered by Garrison, at the HS Commons. Menu is Chicken or Turkey wraps with chips, cookies and water \$8.00

Saturday, June 14th—7:00 am Big Band breakfast, featuring NWMS Jazz Group, at the Fire Station with pancakes, sausage and drink for \$12.00

Saturday, June 14th at Noon—Sandwiches, a side and drink catered by Tru Bru (our newest coffee & sandwich shop) \$10.00 held at the HS Commons.

Saturday, June 14th at 6:15—the festival dinner will be catered by Garrison. The dinner consists of Chicken or Ham Balls with side, salad, rolls and dessert and will be held in the HS Commons. Members \$20.00 & Non-members \$25.00.

As you can tell, there is something for everyone. REMEMBER—tickets for any of the above must be purchased prior to 10:00 am, the day of the meal, so we can give our caterers an accurate count.

Festival Opening Picnic

Something new this year; the festival picnic will be at 5:00 pm outdoors on the Square. Fareway will be grilling hamburgers and hotdogs. Grab your lawn chairs and meet on the Square.